Currently the Department of Ocean Development is working on the design and development of Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD), barge based plant with a capacity of 10 lakh litre per day off Chennai.

Indian migrants in Oman's Sohar jail

1052. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many Indian migrants in Oman's Sohar jail for various offences related to migration;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of Indians in the above jail and the states to which they belong, category-wise, as on today;

(c) the steps taken, if any for the release of the above migrants; and

(d) the steps likely to be initiated so that Indian migrants reach the foreign sponsor only through the Indian embassy?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per the information received by the Embassy of India, Muscat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman, there are eleven persons supposedly of Indian origin who have been detained in Sohar Detention Centre for want of any identification. Names and dates of detention of these persons are given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) The Embassy of India, Muscat is coordinating with the local authorities for ascertaining nationality of these persons and is taking appropriate steps in order to ensure their early release.

(d) No such proposal is being contemplated at present.

Statement

List of Indians Detained in Sohar Detention Centre

Sl. No.	Name	Date of detention
1.	Shri Mohammed Saleem Raj	18.07.2005
2.	Shri Tamil Ramesh	16.10.2005

Sl. No.	Name	Date of detention
3.	Shri Artiri Budi	16.10.2005
4.	Shri Jan Shaheed Jan	23.11.2005
5.	Shri Mahesh Nafees	23.11.2005
6.	Shri Santhosh	28.11.2005
7.	Shri Reddy Yella Reddy	07.12.2005
8.	Shri Sanjiv Wenkat	25.12.2005
9.	Shri Sadan Raju	25.12.2005
10.	Shri Amin Khan	25.12.2005
11.	Shri Haja Yousuf	25.12.2005

Dual citizenship to NRIs

1053. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken to grant dual citizenship status to NRIs and the people of Indian origin; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes. Persons of Indian Origin of all countries, except Pakistan and Bangladesh who fufill certain conditions, are eligible to apply and become Overseas Citizens of India (OCI). OCIs are entitled to multiple-entry, multipurpose, life-long visas with no requirement of registration with police. Hence they can live and work in India or in the country of their naturalization. OCIs are not entitled to vote, hold constitutional posts or employment in the Government. They are however eligible to work in the private sector. OCIs enjoy parity with NRIs in respect of economic, financial and educational fields except in acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.

Indians working in Gulf countries

1054. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many Indians from different States working in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise, Gulf country-wise as on today;